The COHERENT Collaboration and coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering as a new tool for nuclear and particle physics

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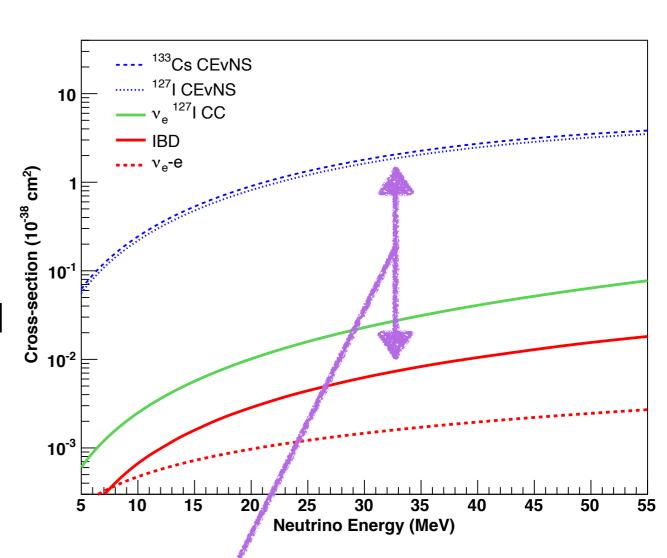
Fermilab 12 Dec 2019



Coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering (CEvNS)

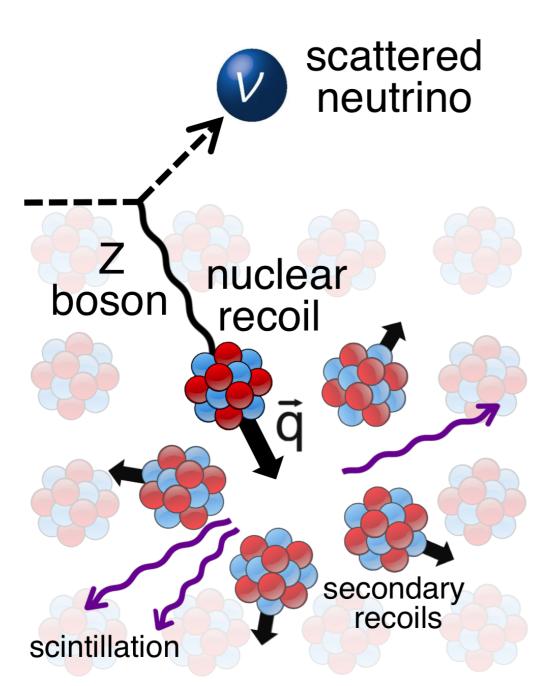
- NC (flavor-independent) process postulated by D.Z. Freedman [1] / Kopeliovich & Frankfurt [2] in 1974
- In a CE_VNS interaction, a neutrino scatters off of a nucleus whose nucleons recoil in phase, resulting in an enhanced cross section; total cross section scales approximately like N²

$$\sigma \approx \frac{G_F^2 N^2}{4\pi} E_{\nu}^2$$



Cross section can be orders of magnitude larger than IBD process used to first observe neutrinos!

"An act of hubris"



G.C. Rich - FNAL Neutrino Seminar - 12 Dec 2019

Freedman [1] noted that several factors combine to make CE_vNS an exceptionally challenging process to observe

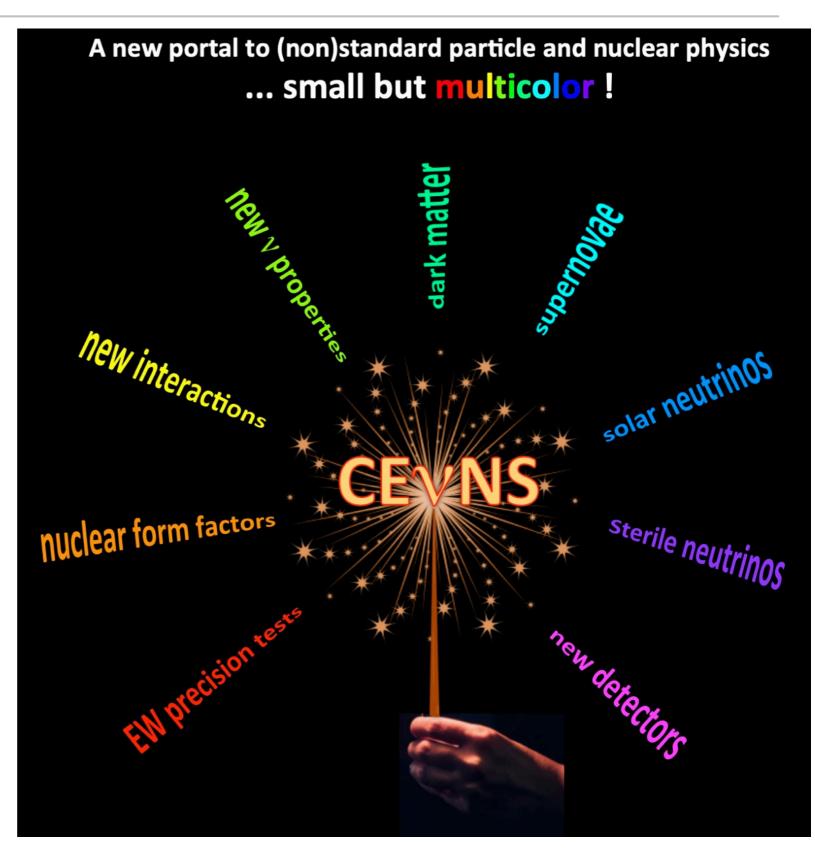
- Need an appropriate source of neutrinos
- Only evidence of the interaction is a low-energy recoiling nucleus
 - Heavier nuclei: higher cross section but lower recoil energies
 - Nuclear recoil signal yields are quenched, i.e. reduced compared to signal from electrons of same energy by a factor called the quenching factor (QF)
 - Detector performance hard to calibrate
- Very-low-threshold detectors are very sensitive to backgrounds
 - Neutron backgrounds are particularly dangerous: produce low-energy nuclear recoils just like CEvNS



First CEvNS observation — COHERENT 2017



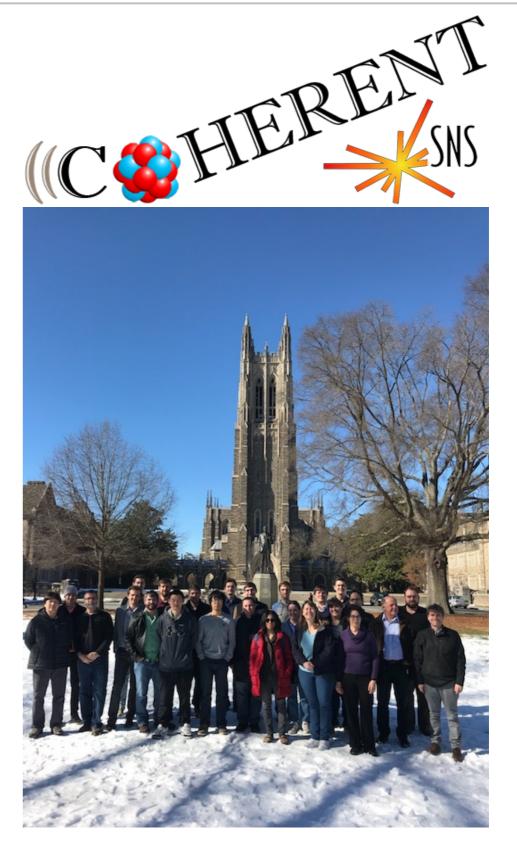
- COHERENT Collaboration performed first observation of CEvNS in 2017
- The many physics sensitivities of the process have been illustrated in the results derived from this data





The COHERENT Collaboration

- Goal: unambiguous observation of CE_VNS using multiple nuclear targets / detector technologies
 - Leverage detector advances from dark-matter community
 - Utilize intense, pulsed neutrino source provided by Spallation Neutron Source (SNS)
 - Use of different nuclear targets allows for measurement of characteristic N² cross-section dependence and some added analysis advantages
- Pioneering CE_VNS detector: CsI[Na]





The Spallation Neutron Source

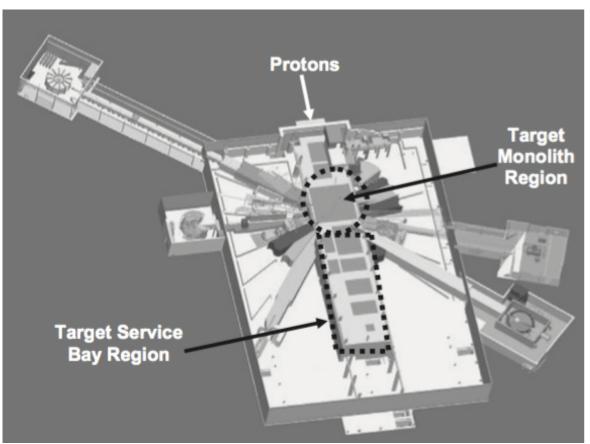


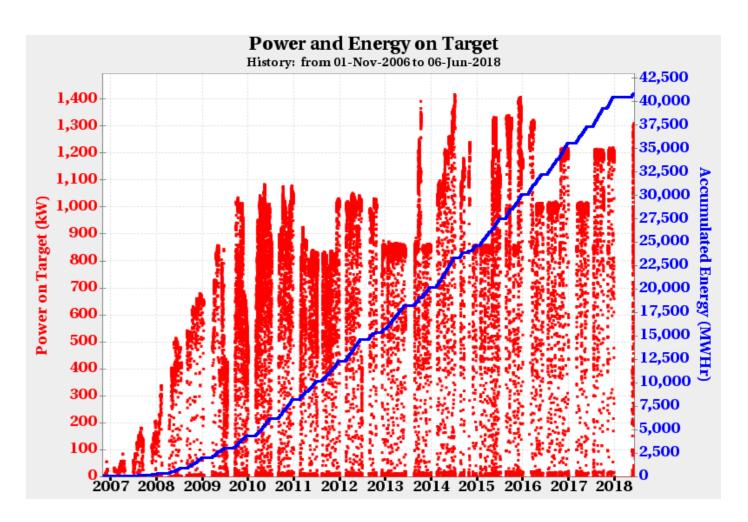
- Located at Oak Ridge National Lab, near Knoxville, TN, USA
- The SNS bombards a liquid mercury target with a ~1-GeV proton beam pulsed at 60 Hz; each beam pulse is ~700-ns wide
- Neutrinos are produced by decay of stopped pions and muons, resulting in flux with well-defined spectral and timing characteristics



The Spallation Neutron Source



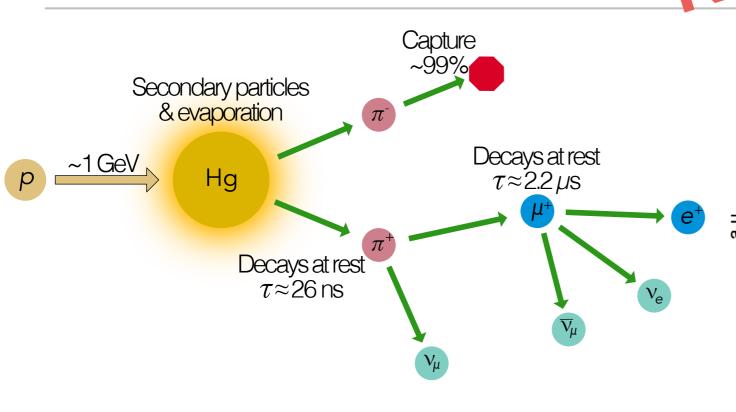


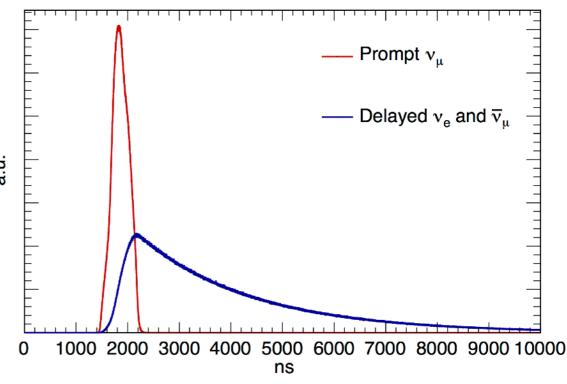


Most intense pulsed neutron source in the world

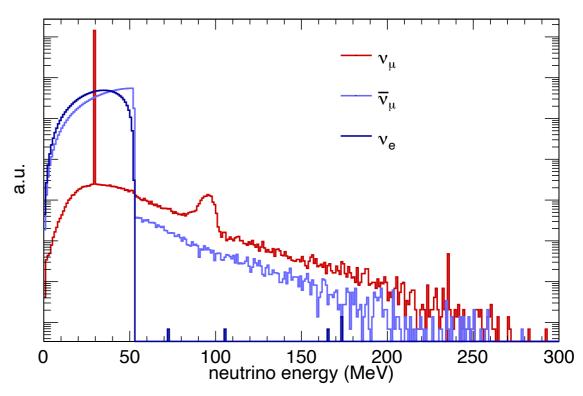


The Spallation Neutrin Source





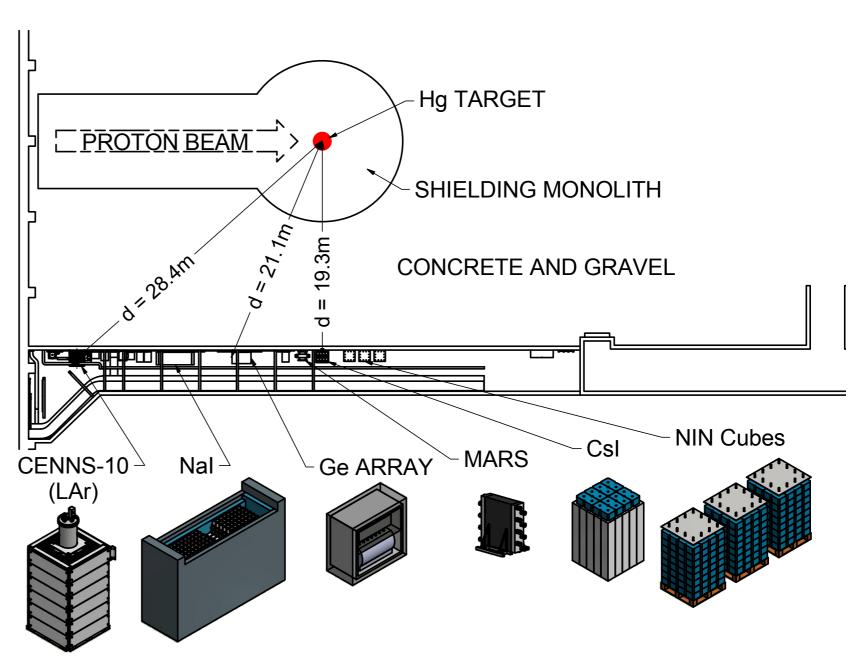
- High-fidelity GEANT4 simulation starts with proton beam; energy spectra very near analytical approximations
- Massive reduction in steady-state backgrounds through timing (@(1000)); facility-wide timing signal can be used to trigger DAQ, both during beam-on and -off periods





Siting and backgrounds

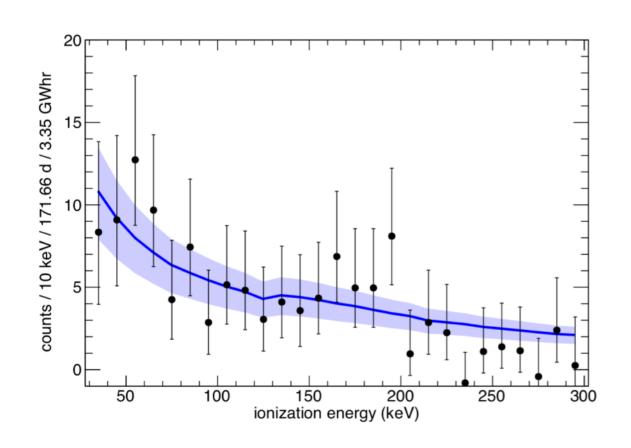
- Backgrounds depend significantly on siting at SNS
 - Extensive background measurement campaign
- COHERENT experiments
 located in a basement hallway
 neutrino alley
 - ~8 m.w.e. overburden
 - 20- to 30-m from target
- Primary backgrounds in neutrino alley:
 - Prompt SNS neutrons
 - Neutrino-induced neutrons (NINs)

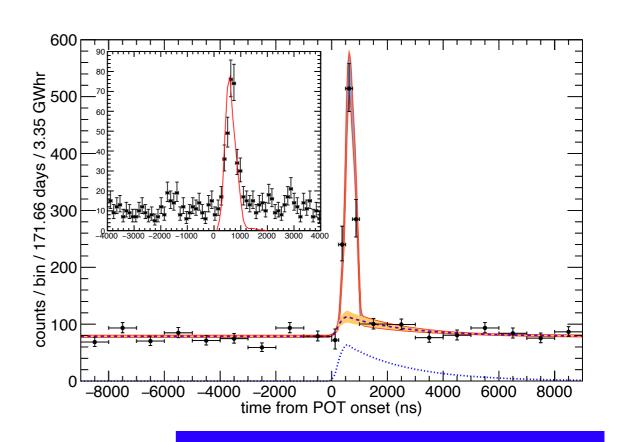


Approx v flux at CsI[Na] location 1e7 v / cm² / s / flavor

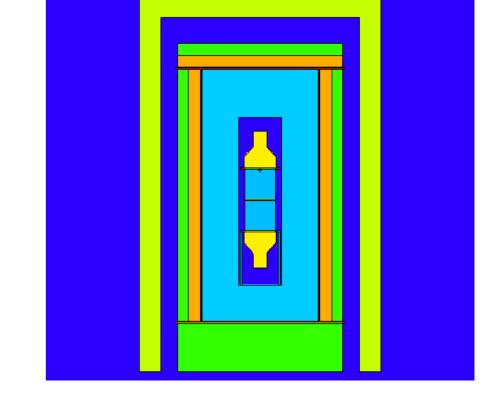


In situ measurement of neutron backgrounds



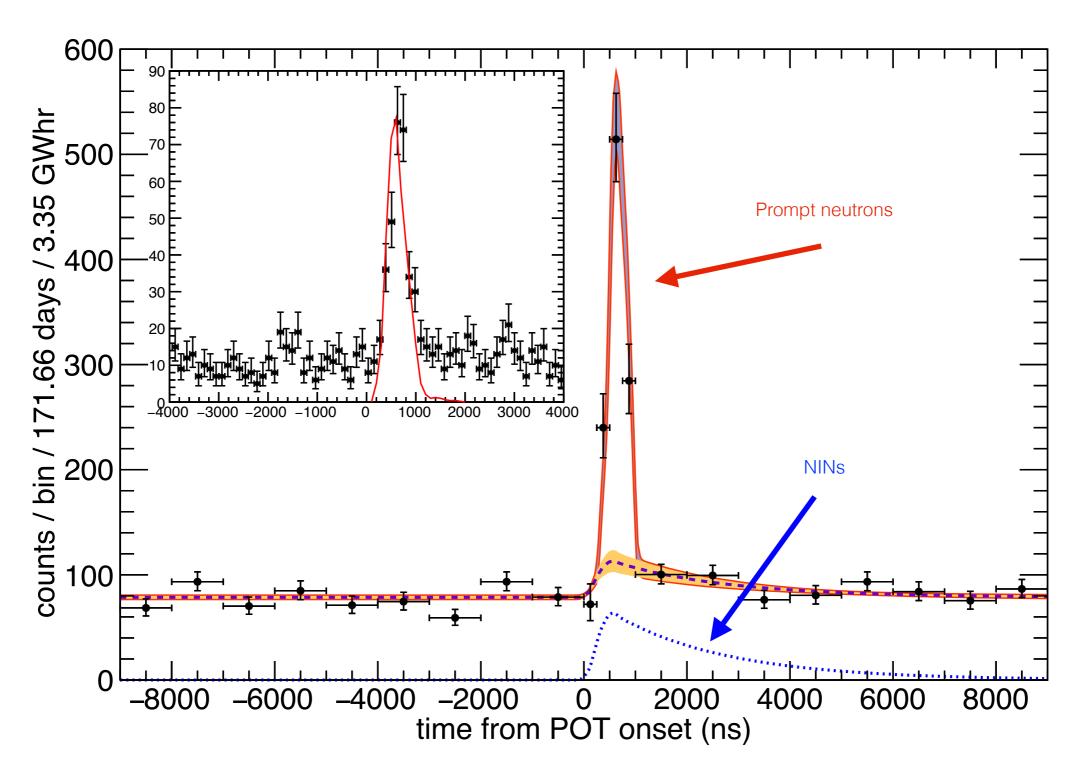


- Prior to CE_vNS search, neutron detection system installed at location of CsI[Na] detector
- Data informed model of prompt SNS neutron energy distribution
- Established understanding of beam timing w.r.t. SNS timing signal





In situ measurement of neutron backgrounds





Neutrino-induced neutrons (NINs)

Aluminum ceiling plate

$$\nu_{e} + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \quad \Rightarrow \quad {}^{208}\text{Bi*} + e^{-} \qquad (CC)$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

$${}^{208-y}\text{Bi} + x \gamma + y n,$$

$$\nu_{x} + {}^{208}\text{Pb} \quad \Rightarrow \quad {}^{208}\text{Pb*} + \nu'_{x} \qquad (NC)$$

$$\downarrow \downarrow$$

$${}^{208-y}\text{Pb} + x \gamma + y n.$$

- Dominant background for CE_vNS measurement with naïve shielding configuration, but interesting physics of its own
 - Possible role in nucleosynthesis in certain astrophysical environments [1]
 - NIN production on Pb is the fundamental mechanism by which HALO intendeds to detect supernova neutrinos
 [2]
 - Process has never before been measured, considerable variation in theoretical predictions (~3x) [3]
- *In situ* measurements give rate limit, plus ongoing measurement of process with "neutrino cubes"

[1] Y-Z. Qian et al., Phys. Rev. C 55 (1997)
[2] C.A. Duba et al. J. Phys. Conf. Series 136 (2008)
[3] C. Volpe, N. Auerbach, G. Colò, and N. Van. Giai, Phys. Rev. C 65 (2002)
NIN pathways from S.R. Elliott, Phys. Rev. C (2000)

Plastic scintillator panels

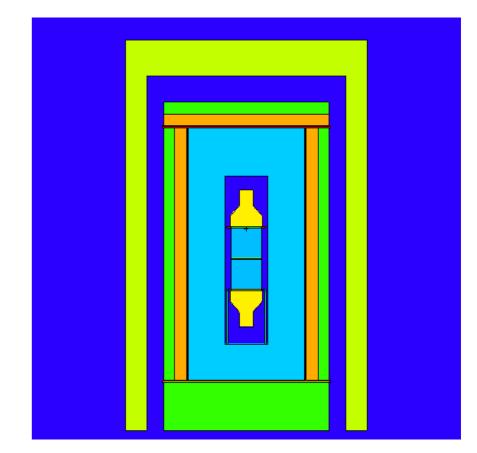
Modular water shielding

Liquid scintillator cell

3'

Neutrino cube design (top) and simulation geometry for *in situ* NIN measurement for CsI[Na] deployment (bottom)

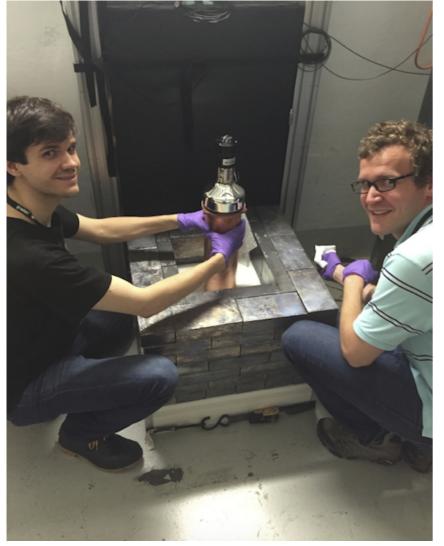
Photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) for liquid scintillator cells-



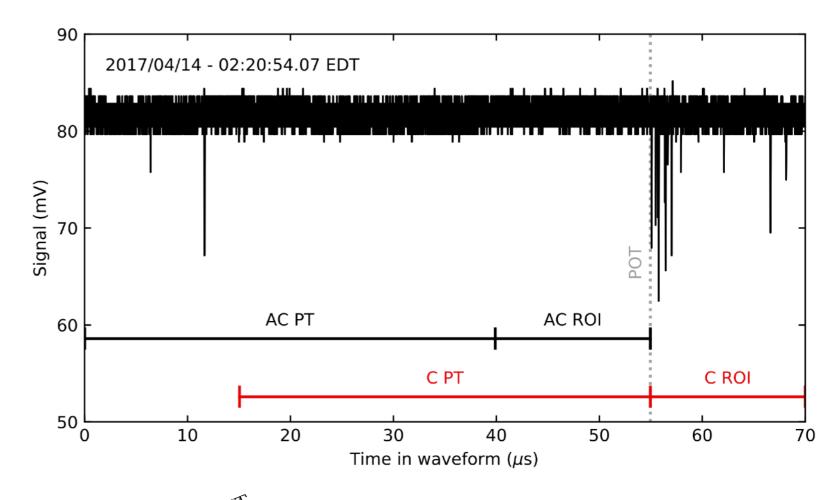
CEVNS with CsI[Na]



Deployed to SNS in June 2015

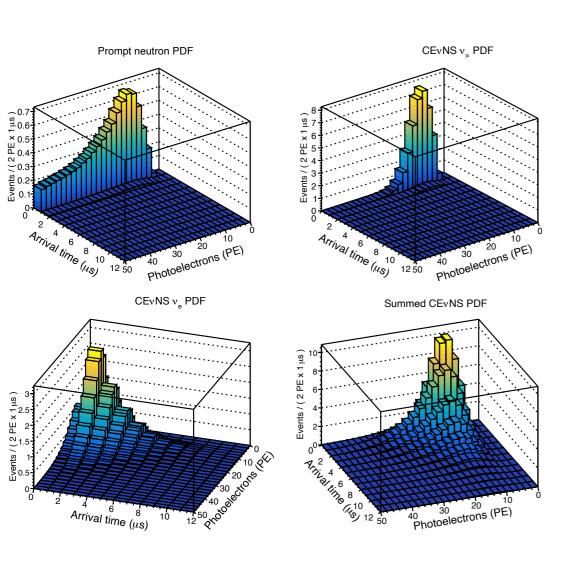


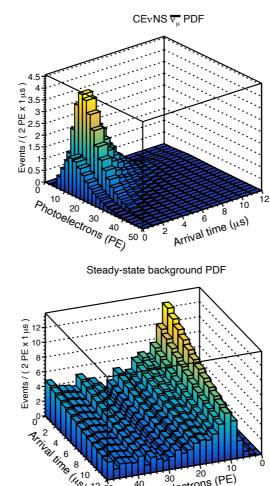
- 14.6-kg crystal made from low-background salts, encased in electroformed-copper can with PTFE reflector and synthetic silica window, surrounded by neutron and gamma shielding, including low-activity lead
- Development led by University of Chicago [1]
- Output of super-bialkali PMT with $\sim 30\%$ QE digitized for 70 μ s, triggered by SNS timing signal





Rate and shape estimates

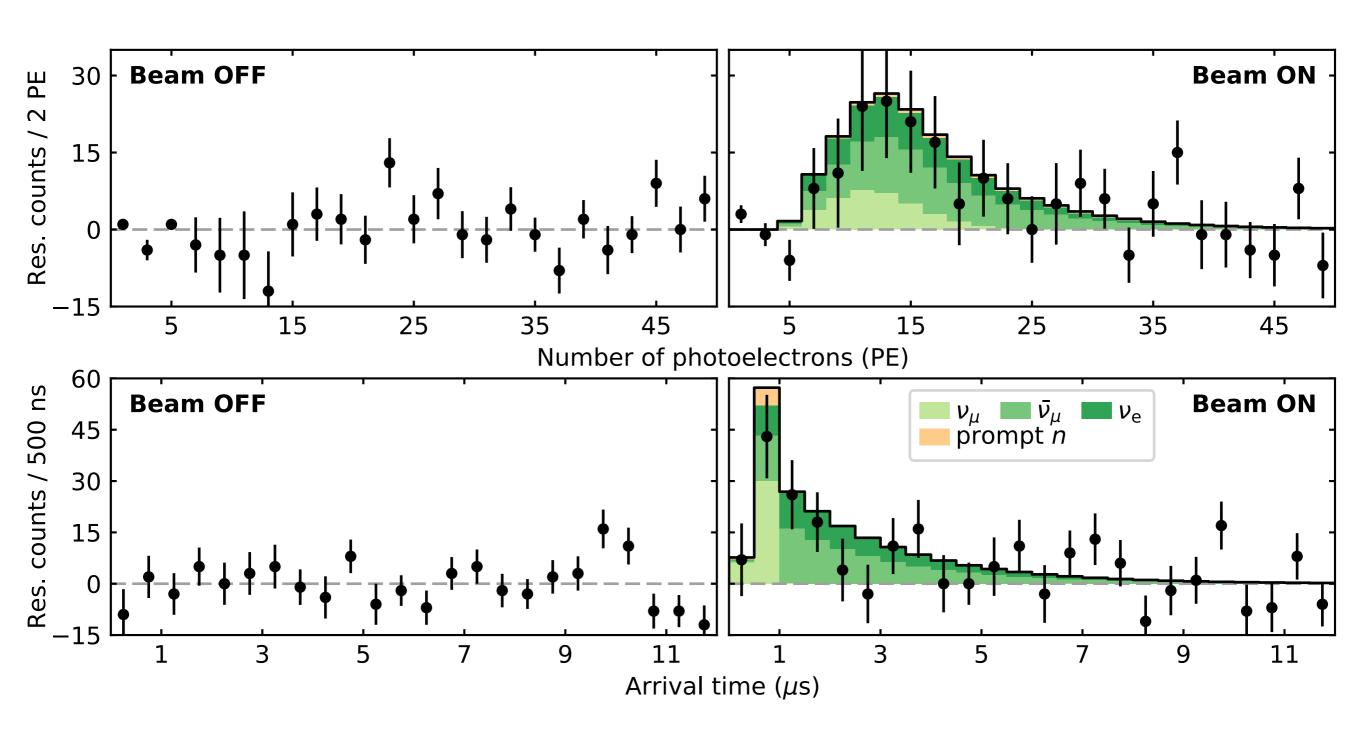




- Pulsed nature of beam facilitates analysis in time domain
- 2-D analysis (energy, time) makes use of all available information
- Ultimately performed binned 2-D profile likelihood analysis using PDFs shown here
 - Assumes Standard Model
 - Incorporates knowledge of detector response, analysis acceptance, etc



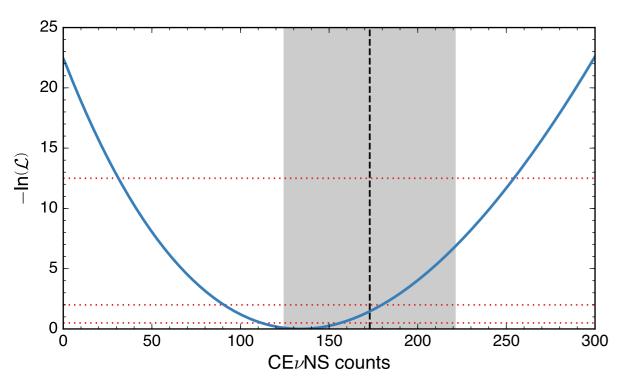
SM prediction and data

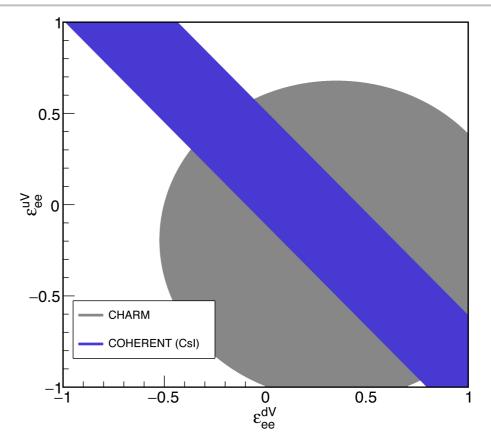




Results

- Beam exposure: ~6 GWhr, or ~1.4 \times 10²³ protons on target (0.22 grams of protons)
- Analyzed as a simple counting experiment
 - 136 ± 31 counts
- 2-D profile likelihood analysis
 - 134 \pm 22 counts, within 1- σ of SM prediction of 173 \pm 48
 - Null hypothesis disfavored at $6.7-\sigma$ level relative to best-fit number of counts
- Able to further constrain some NSI parameters



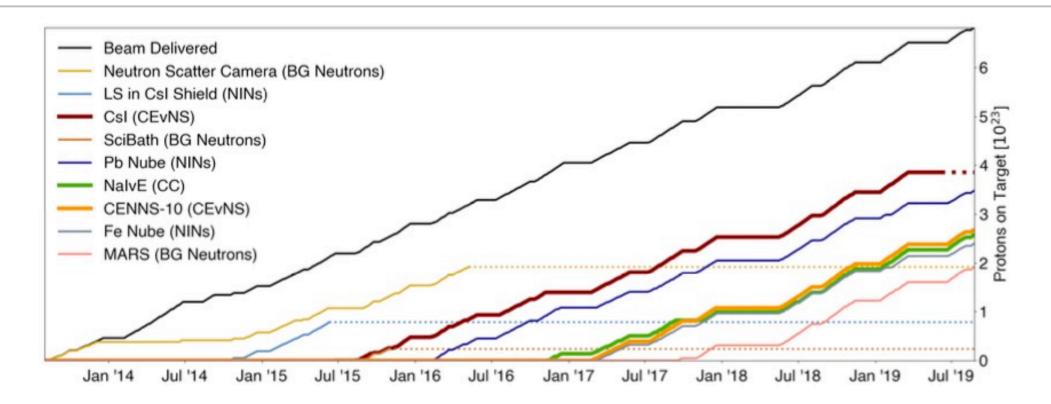


Dominant systematic uncertainties on predicted rates

Quenching factor	25%
ν flux	10%
Nuc. form factor	5%
Analysis acceptance	5%



Since the first observation...

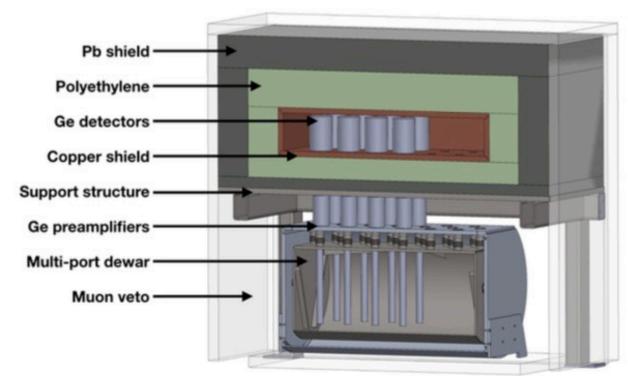


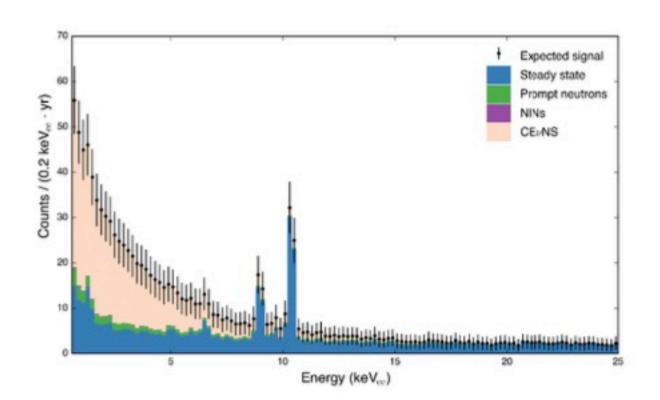
- Csl[Na] data collection continued
 - Decommissioned June 2019
 - Final result should have ~2x statistics
- LAr data collection / upgrades
- Non-CEvNS efforts
 - Beam-related neutron backgrounds
 - NINs

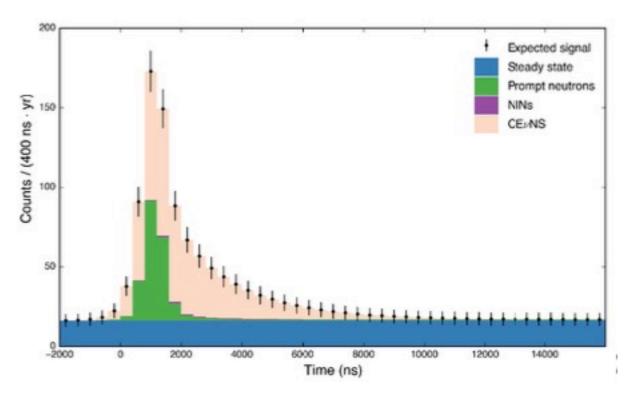


Ge @ COHERENT

- MRI funding to support deployment of 16-kg Ge PPC detectors to SNS
 - Effort led by NCSU/Duke/NCCU
 - < 3 keVnr threshold</p>
- Expect 500-600 CEvNS events/year
- Targeting deployment in 2020









CENNS-10 @ COHERENT

- CENNS-10 detector originally developed and built at FNAL as part of CENNS project
- Moved to SNS late 2016
- Original threshold ~100 keVnr
 - Not sensitive to CEvNS, but could provide valuable insight into backgrounds etc

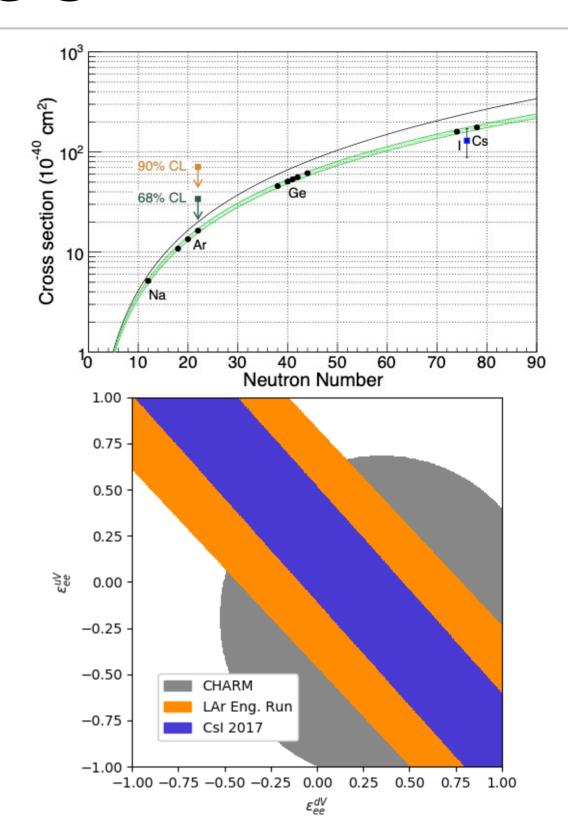


Photo of Andy Lathrop (FNAL) with CENNS-10 during assembly at FNAL (Photo from talk by R. Tayloe (IU), Underground Argon Workshop)



CENNS-10 @ COHERENT

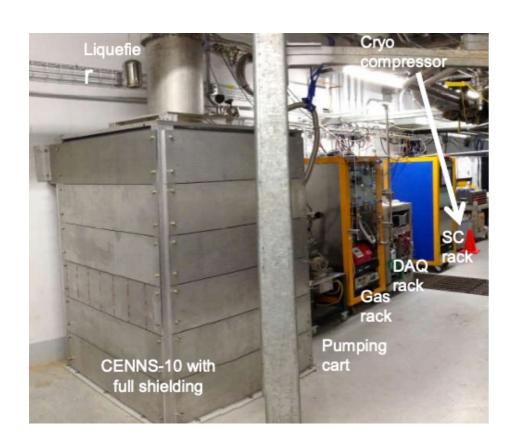
- First limit published recently in Phys. Rev. D (10.1103/ PhysRevD.100.115020; Editors' suggestion)!
- Even with limited statistics, light yield, etc., constraints are able to be determined for certain NSI parameters (though not improving on previous COHERENT limits)
- PhD thesis (Indiana) University) for Matthew Heath





CENNS-10 upgrades and physics run

- Several improvements made to CENNS-10 detector to boost sensitivity
 - Improved light collection
 - Added shielding
- FNAL W&C 10 Jan, 2020
 - Make of this what you will...





Joint Experimental-Theoretical Physics Seminar

Regular seminars are Fridays at 4:00 p.m. in Wilson Hall, One West.

Special dates or rooms are given below.

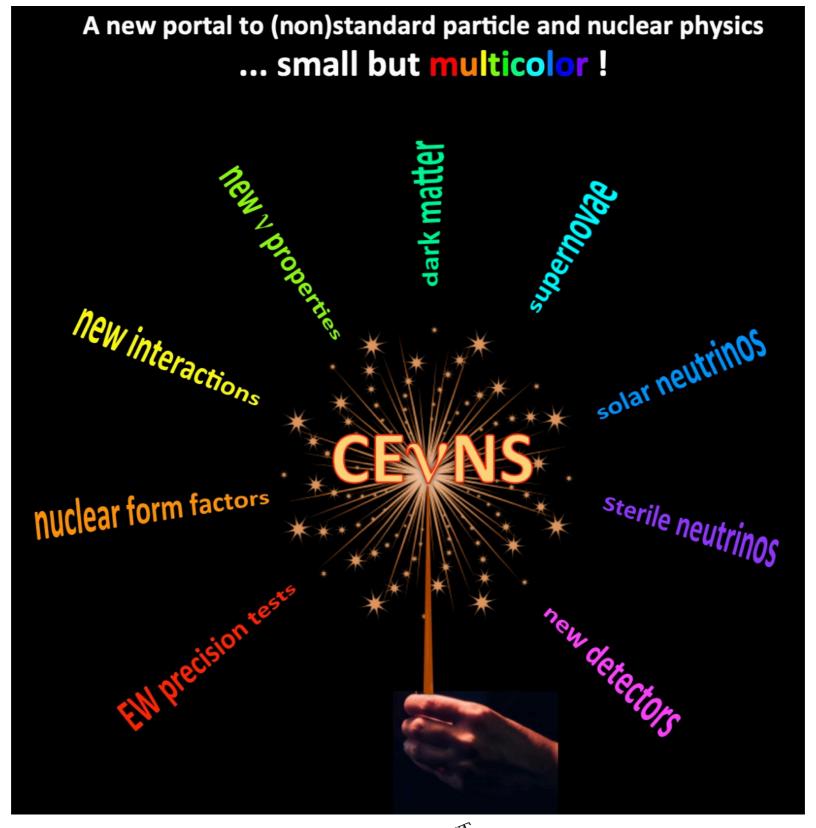
Please contact Roni Harnik for more information.

A live video stream is sometimes available, check this link.

Event date 🕼	Title ↓↑	Speakers 11	Links
Dec. 13	seminar postponed (date open)		
Jan. 10	New Results from COHERENT	Jacob Zettlemoyer, Indiana University	
Jan. 17	TBD	Carlos Arguelles Delgado, MIT	
Jan. 24	Higgs-Yukawa Universality	Chris Hill, Fermilab	
Feb. 14	New Results from CMS		
Feb. 21	New Result from ArgoNeuT		
Feb. 28	New Results from MINERvA		
April 10	New Results from CMS		

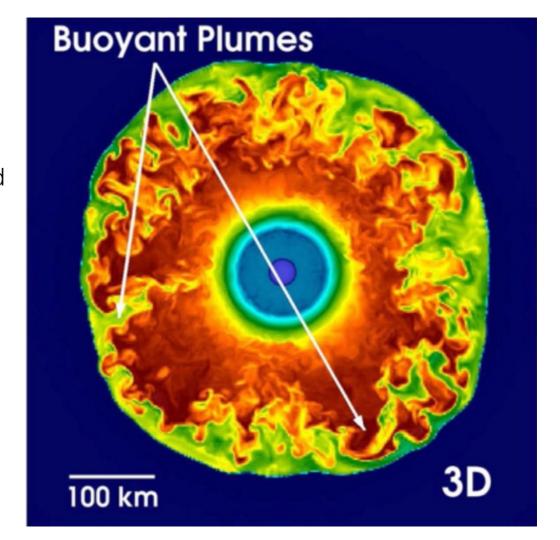


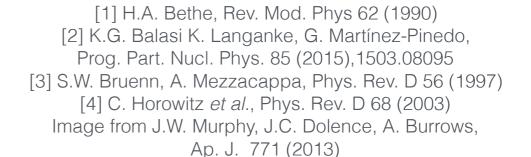
Connections to numerous areas of nuclear and particle physics



CEvNS and supernovae

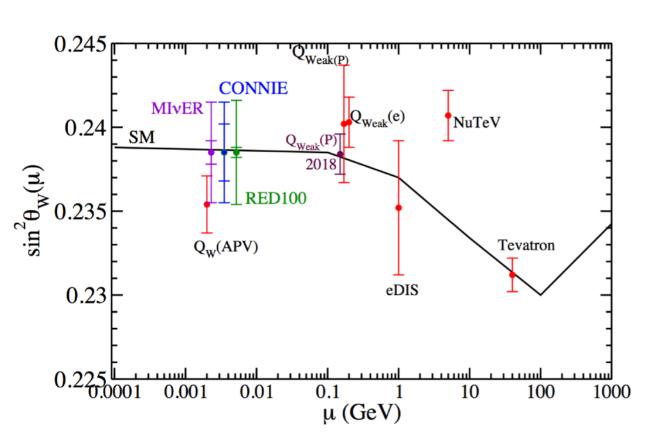
- Freedman immediately recognized CE_vNS could be significant in core-collapse supernovae
 - ~99% of radiated energy, ~10₅₃ ergs, carried in ~10₅₈ neutrinos
 - The comparatively large CE_vNS cross section presents a viable way to couple neutrino flux to stellar matter
- Supernova models generally failed to explode, but neutrinos could help
 - "Delayed shock" mechanism, where neutrinos re-energize the explosion, persists for a long time as a possible explanation
 [1]
- Neutrino opacity in certain regions may still be significantly influenced by CEvNS [2,3]
- CEvNS also presents a way to detect the neutrinos from supernovae [4]
 - Neutrinos can possibly carry information otherwise unavailable
 - CEvNS-based detectors could see ~few events per ton for a
 CCSNe at 10 kpc [4]



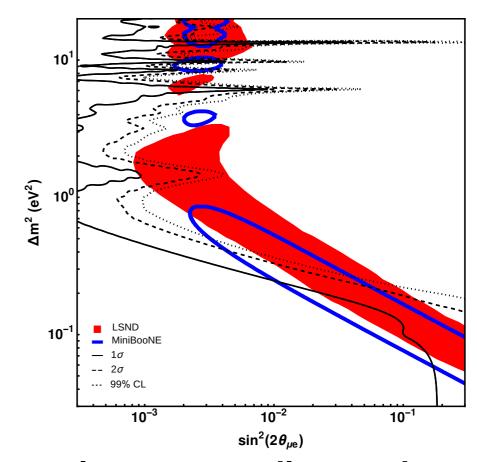




$$\frac{d\sigma}{dT} = \frac{G_F^2}{2\pi} M \left[2 - \frac{2T}{E_\nu} + \left(\frac{T}{E_\nu}\right)^2 - \frac{MT}{E_\nu^2} \right] \frac{Q_W^2}{4} \left(F(Q^2) \right)^2$$



Weak mixing angle - Unique probe of Q_W^2 at a unique Q in a region sensitive to dark-Z boson models [1,2]

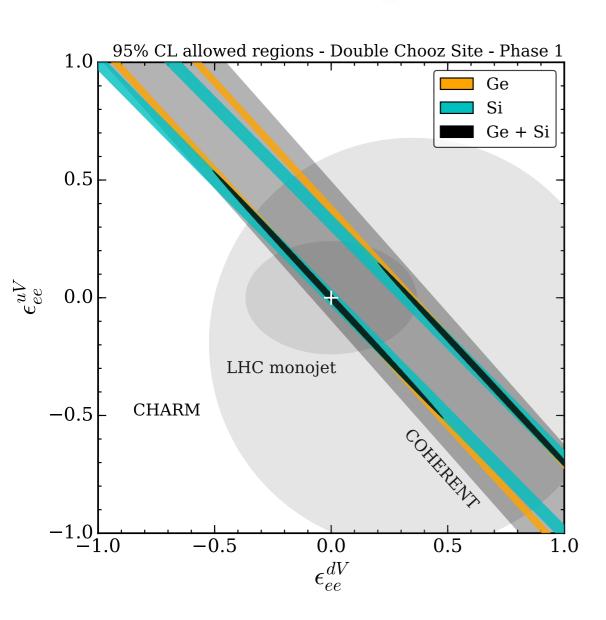


Neutral-current sterile neutrino search - all-flavor disappearance experiment [3,4] could test, e.g., LSND & MiniBooNE [5]

[1] B.C. Cañas et al., 1806.01310
[2] H. Davoudiasl et al., Phys. Rev. D 89 (2014)
[3] A.J. Anderson et al., Phys. Rev. D 86 (2012)
[4] B.C. Cañas et al., Phys. Lett. B (776) (2018), 1708.09518
[5] C. Blanco, D. Hooper, P. Machado, 1901.08094
Left figure from [1], right from [5]



$$\begin{split} Q_W^2 \to Q_{\mathrm{NSI}}^2 &= 4 \left[N \left(-\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon_{ee}^{uV} + 2 \epsilon_{ee}^{dV} \right) + Z \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2 \sin^2 \theta_W + 2 \epsilon_{ee}^{uV} + \epsilon_{ee}^{dV} \right) \right]^2 \\ &+ 4 \left[N (\epsilon_{e\tau}^{uV} + 2 \epsilon_{e\tau}^{dV}) + Z (2 \epsilon_{e\tau}^{uV} + \epsilon_{e\tau}^{dV}) \right]^2 \,. \end{split}$$



Non-standard neutrino interactions - Additional terms added to SM lagrangian, with the effect of modifying the weak charge. Thus, this is manifested as an overall scaling of the expected CE_vNS cross section

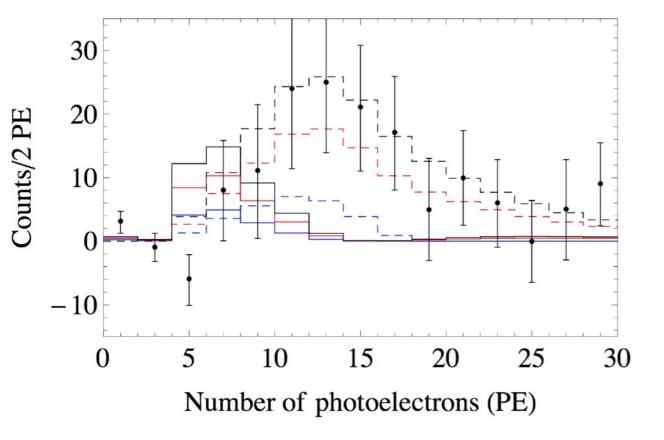
CE_vNS shows dependence on both non-universal and flavor-changing neutral currents.

Targets with different N/Z ratios provide degeneracy-breaking strength in u and d couplings shown in figure at left

[1] J. Barranco *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D 76 (2007) [2] J. Billard, J. Johnston, B. Kavanagh, arXiv:1805.01798 Figure and Eq from [2]



$$Q_{\alpha,\mathrm{NSI}}^2 = \left[Z \left(g_p^V + \frac{3g^2}{2\sqrt{2}G_F(Q^2 + M_{Z'}^2)} \right) + N \left(g_n^V + \frac{3g^2}{2\sqrt{2}G_F(Q^2 + M_{Z'}^2)} \right) \right]^2$$



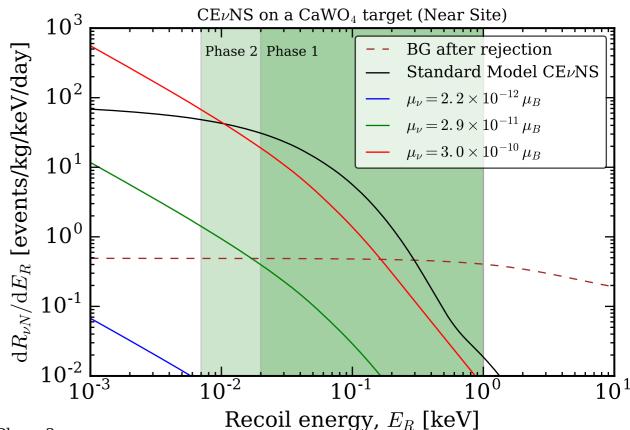
- With a light mediator, the NSI contributions are manifested somewhat differently
- Weak charge still modified, but now there is a Q² dependence
 - Result is a spectral distortion, not an overall rate scaling [1]



Fundamental properties of neutrinos -

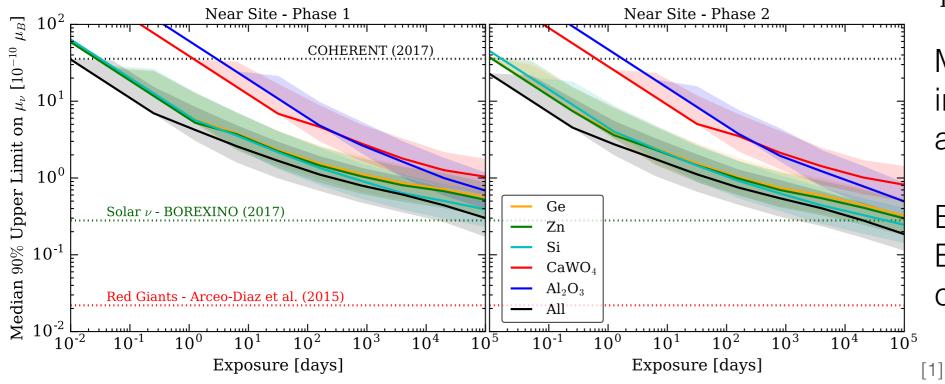
sensitivity to neutrino electromagnetic properties (e.g., magnetic moment) [1,2] and lift degeneracy of "dark side" solution to θ_{12} that would complicate mass-order determination from oscillation experiments [3]

Plots show predictions for contributions from neutrino magnetic moment and sensitivity for specific experimental cases



Magnetic moment introduces spectral change at very-low energy recoils

Existing limits from BOREXINO and red giant cooling are hard to match



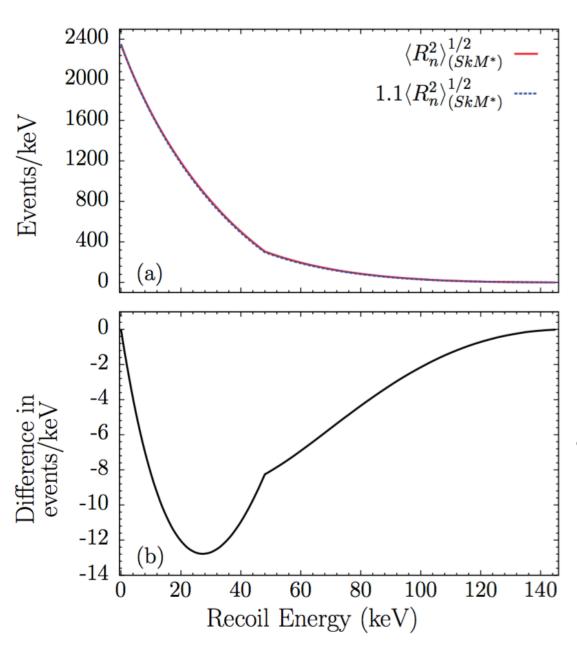
[1] K. Scholberg, Phys. Rev. D 73 (2006)

[2] J. Billard, J. Johnston, B. Kavanagh, arXiv:1805.01798

[3] P. Coloma *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D 96 (2017) Figs from [2]

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CEVNS as a tool for nuclear physics

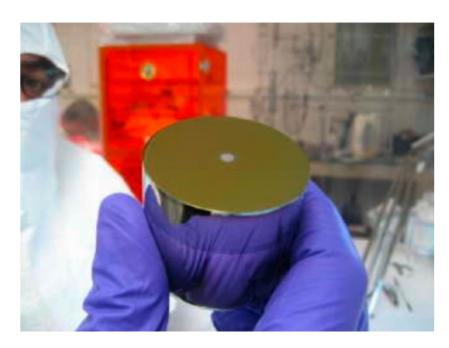


- CEvNS is sensitive to the distribution of neutrons in nuclei
 - Can be used to measure this distribution [1], which is otherwise very challenging
 - Won't be competitive with purpose-built experiments (e.g., PREX and CREX) in foreseeable future, but more flexible - can (somewhat) easily measure neutron distribution in different nuclei
 - This input can refine nuclear structure models and improve understanding of neutron star EoS [2]
- CEvNS-based monitoring of nuclear reactors may be possible, creating new tools for non-proliferation
 - CE_vNS allows for miniaturization of neutrino detectors
 - Can possibly extend reach below IBD threshold [3]

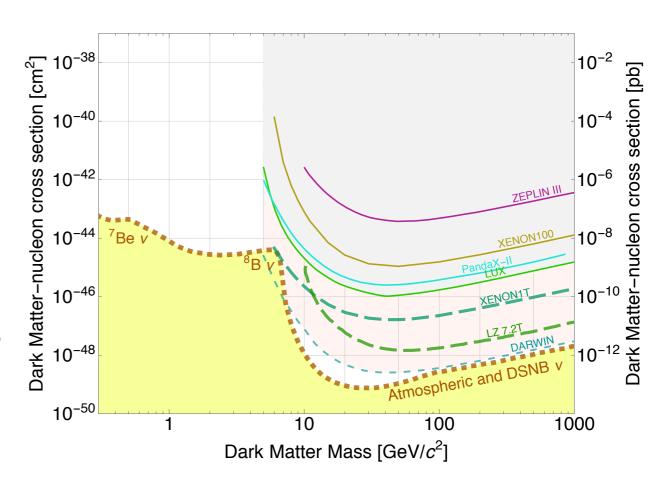


CEvNS becomes a background

- Goodman & Witten recognize utility of CE_vNSsensitive detectors as potential dark matter detectors [1]
 - DM and CE_vNS interactions are both coherent scattering processes with the same detectable signature (gently recoiling nuclei)
- Numerous instances of proposed CE_vNS detectors turning instead into competitive DM searches



P.S. Barbeau, Ph.D. thesis (UChicago 2009)

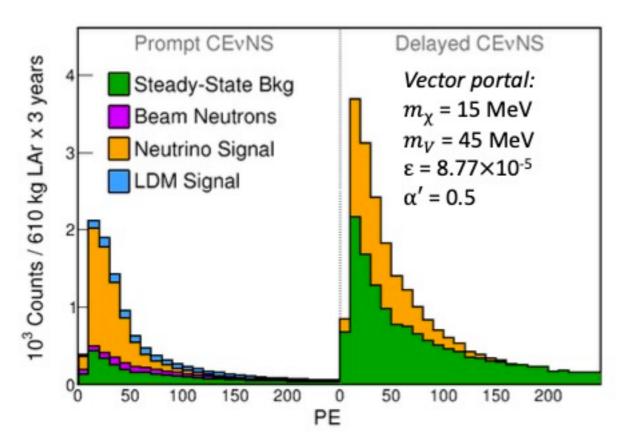


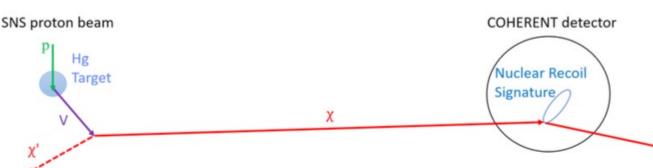
- Tremendous advances in detector technology to build more sensitive DM searches
- Next generation of WIMP detectors will begin to be sensitive to CEvNS from ⁸B solar neutrino flux
 - This "neutrino floor" brings the CE_vNS and DM relationship full circle



CEvNS becomes a background

- CEvNS-sensitive detectors can be used in other (non-WIMP) dark matter searches, as well
- Accelerator-produced dark matter could manifest as signals in large detectors
 - Another instance where CE_vNS is a background!



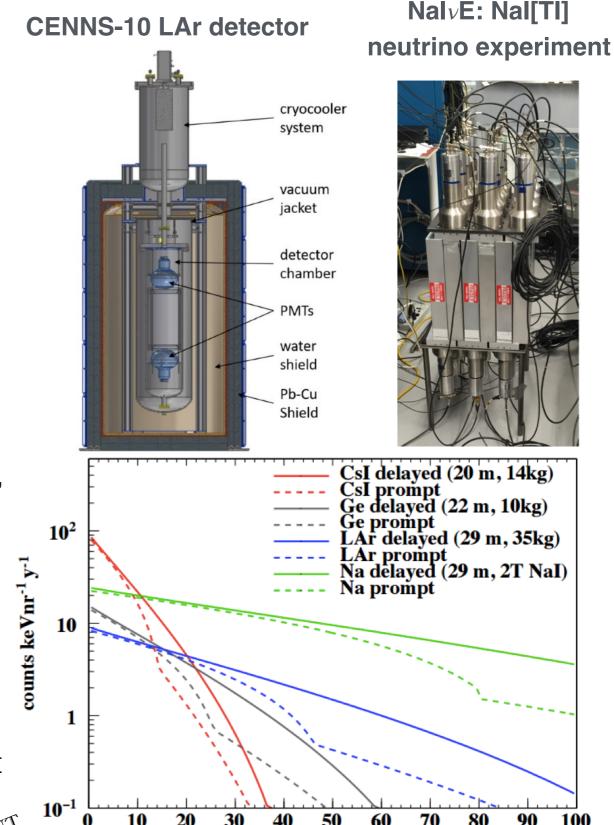


- Timing can play critical role in constraining CEvNS background these searches!
- For details, see recent sensitivity study for ton-scale LAr detector at COHERENT/SNS carried out by Dan Pershey (Duke postdoc) [1,2]



COHERENT physics moving forward

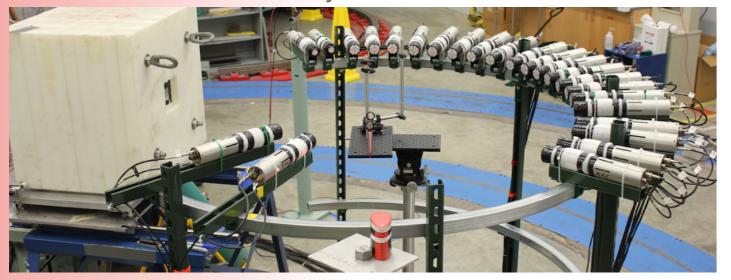
- Measure NINs cross section in ²⁰⁸Pb, ⁵⁶Fe
- Measure 127I CC cross section
 - 185-kg NalvE collecting low-gain CC data now; continue in 2-T phase in parallel with high-gain mode
 - Sensitivity to g_A quenching with $Q \sim \mathcal{O}(10 \text{ MeV})$
- N² dependence of CE_vNS cross section
 - Several distinct N values represented in COHERENT suite of experiments
 - 22-kg LAr detector already collecting CE_vNS data,
 plans for 16 kg of Ge PPCs and 2-T NaI[TI]
- Begin to perform precision CE_VNS measurements
 - High-resolution, low-threshold detectors, such as Ge PPCs, enable access to exciting physics, e.g. electromagnetic properties of neutrinos
 - Improve understanding of timing characteristics at SNS

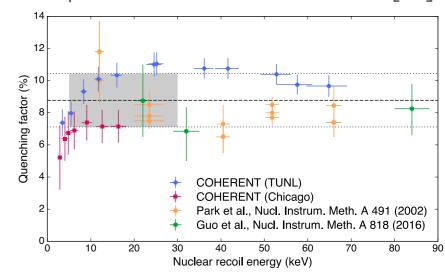


recoil energy keVnr

Reducing dominant systematic uncertainties

- Understanding of QF is crucial for all CEvNS measurements
 - Reanalyzing original data and collecting new data to resolve discrepancy in COHERENT QF measurements for CsI[Na]
 - Some data already collected and future measurements planned for Ge and NaI[TI]



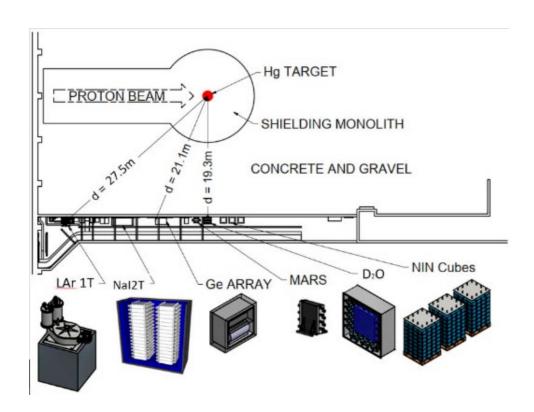


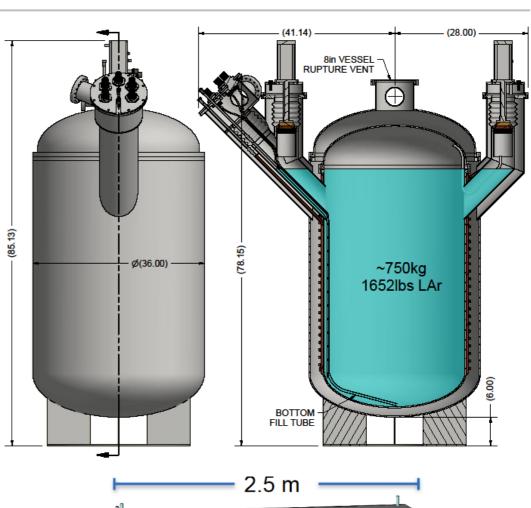
- Indirect approaches to flux determination possible (e.g., improved input for models or direct measurement of pion production at SNS)
- Conceptual design stages of a D₂O detector for neutrino alley relying on CC interaction on D
 - D cross section is relatively well understood theoretically [1] and previous measurements agree with predictions [2]

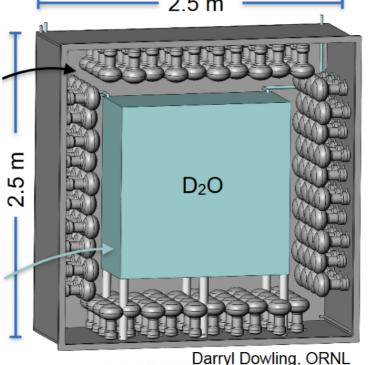


Mid-term future of COHERENT

- Next stages of COHERENT CE_VNS measurements will be a considerable scale up
 - Beginning plans for $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ ton})$ LAr detector using underground argon
 - Development advancing for multi-ton NaI[TI] detector capable of simultaneous CC and CE_VNS measurement; designing new PMTbase electronics to facilitate this parallel measurement
- Flux normalization measurements benefit all COHERENT experiments; early design stages
- Ge deployment (2020)







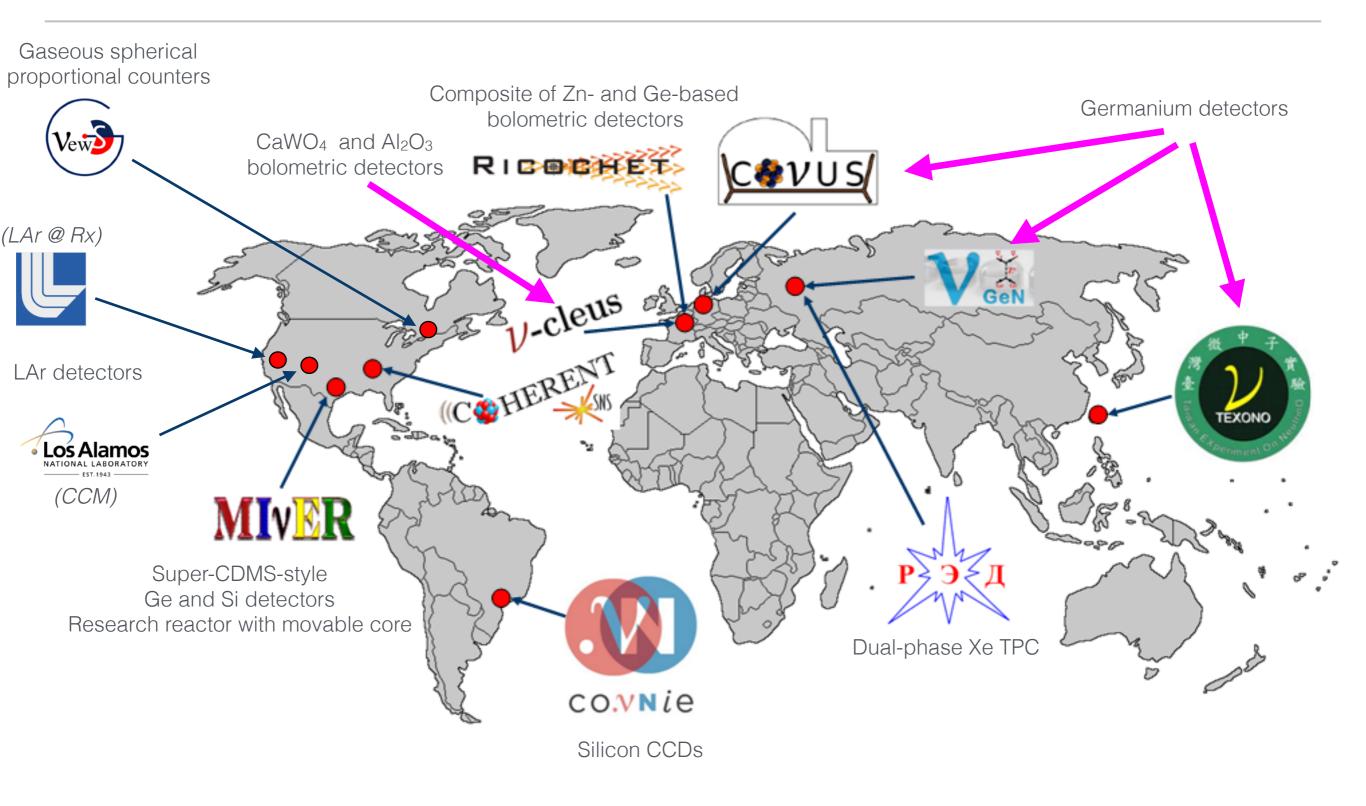


Community efforts

- Three important goals
 - Building collaboration / communication
 - Shared resources / expertise
 - Data openness / sharing

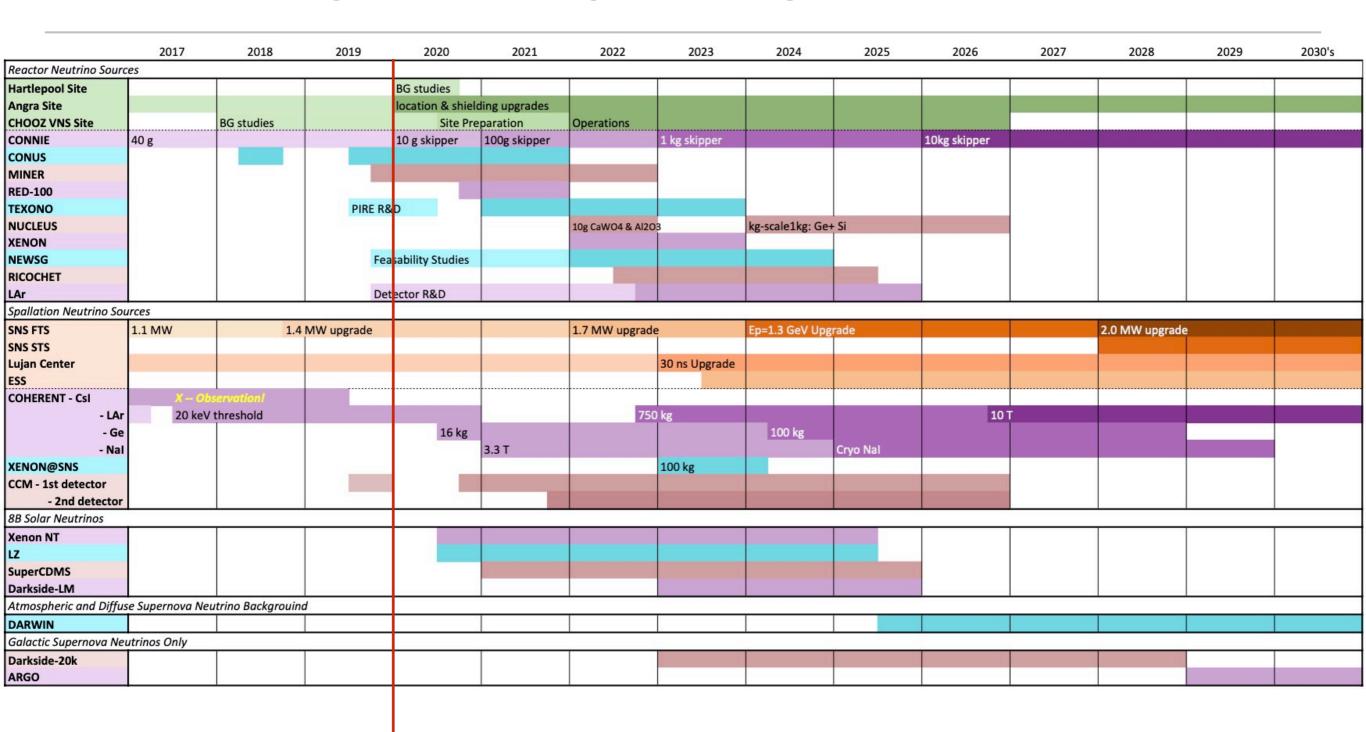


Global CEvNS efforts





Global CEvNS efforts



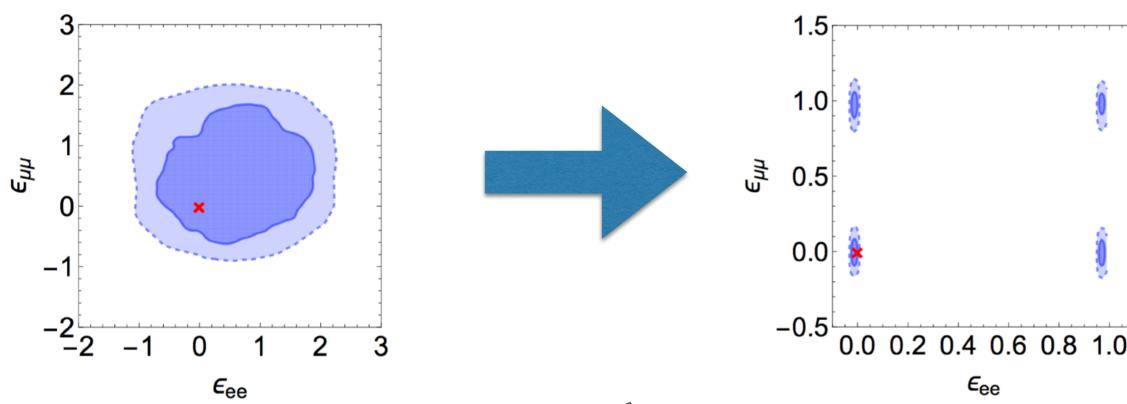
The next few years will be an exciting time in the CEvNS community!

Very good time to be involved, and considerable opportunities for involvement



Complementarity of CEvNS efforts

- The distinct efforts seeking to measure CE_vNS are *highly complementary*
- At the simplest level, different detectors or sources allow for independent systematics
- Different nuclear targets and different sources (energies/flavor composition) allow for isolation of certain physics sensitivities
 - NSI parameter constraints are *significantly* improved when accelerator and reactor experiments are combined in a joint analysis of projected measurements [1]
 - Reactor experiments are not very sensitive to nuclear form factor (mitigates systematic) where stopped-pion experiments do have this sensitivity (allows for measurement of neutron distribution)





Community workshop series

- Magnificent CEvNS workshop
 - Nov 2-3, 2018, Chicago (~70 attendees; magnificentcevns.org/2018)
 - Nov 9-11, 2019, Chapel Hill, NC (~90 attendees; magnificentcevns.org/2019)
 - Sept 16-18 (tentative), 2020, Munich
- Goal is to promote collaborative spirit within broad CEvNS community and foster community-wide efforts
 - With some alignment around the common touchstone of CEvNS, there could be scientific impact across numerous fields
 - Community white paper effort established in anticipation of Snowmass process (info / links on 2019 M7s Indico site)

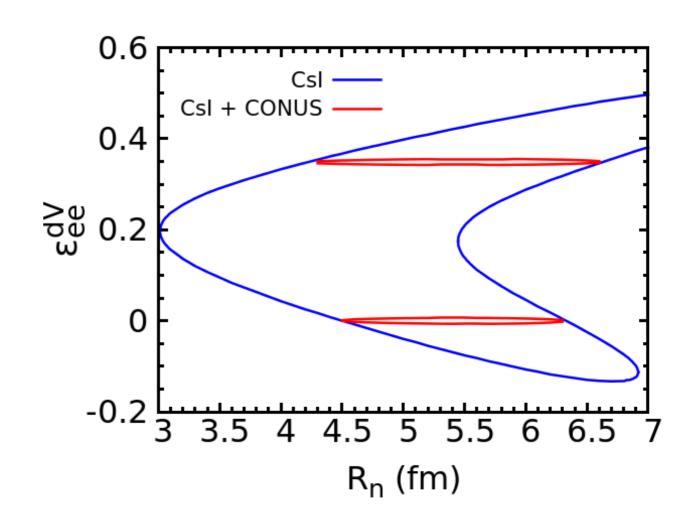






Interplay between nuclear and particle physics

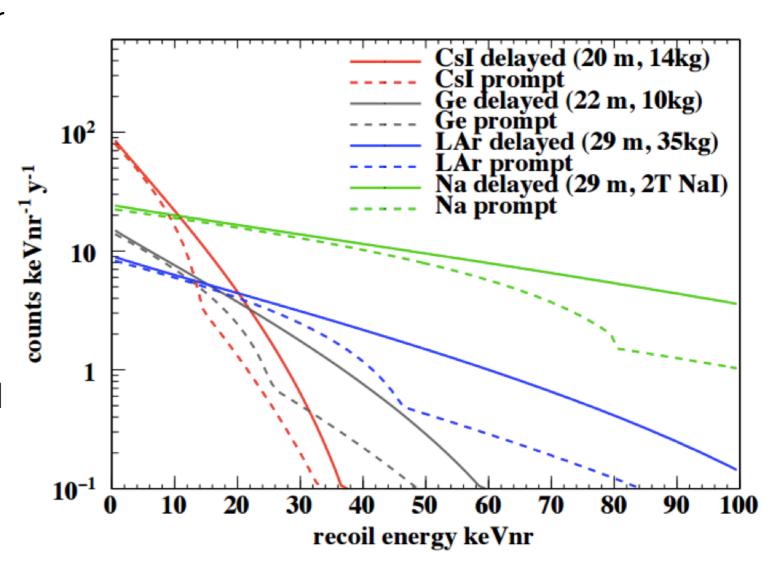
- Recent efforts, reflecting (if not directly influenced by) discussions at M7s meeting, explore the interplay between nuclear physics and BSM sensitivities [1]
- This is precisely the kind of inter-disciplinary discourse M7s is meant to encourage!





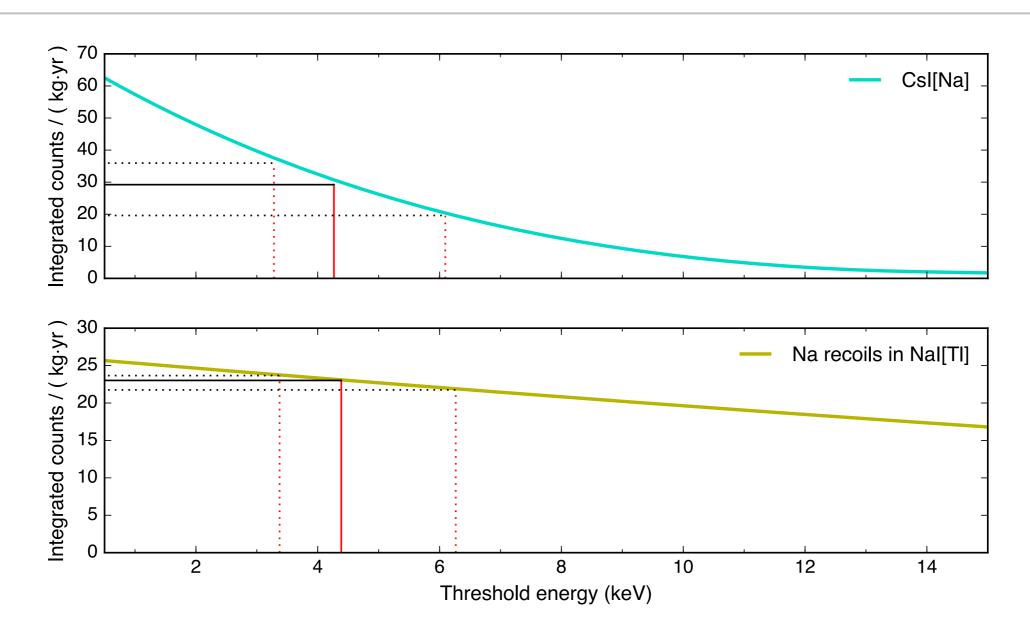
Low-energy nuclear recoils from CEvNS

- Signature of CE_vNS in a detector is a low-energy nuclear recoil
- To properly interpret collected data, it is of paramount importance that detector response at these nuclear recoil energies be well understood
- Uncertainty in detector threshold translates into uncertainty in measured cross section
 - Situation worse for heavier targets





Low-energy nuclear recoils from CEvNS



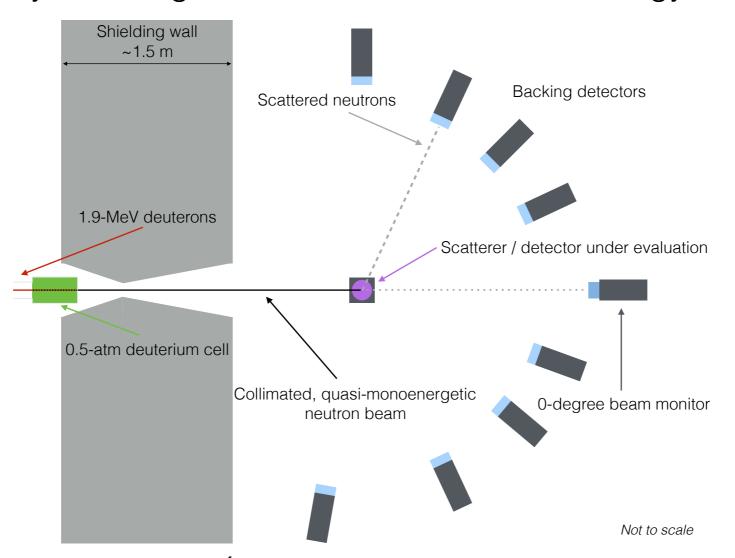
- Simple model: assume 30% uncertainty on QF for both CsI[Na] and NaI[TI]
 - Nal[TI] counts above threshold has resulting ~5% uncertainty
 - Csl[Na] counts ~30% uncertainty



Low-energy nuclear recoils from neutron scattering

 Quasi-monoenergetic neutron beam scattered by central detector into fixed angles covered by "backing" detectors; nuclear recoil energy kinematically well

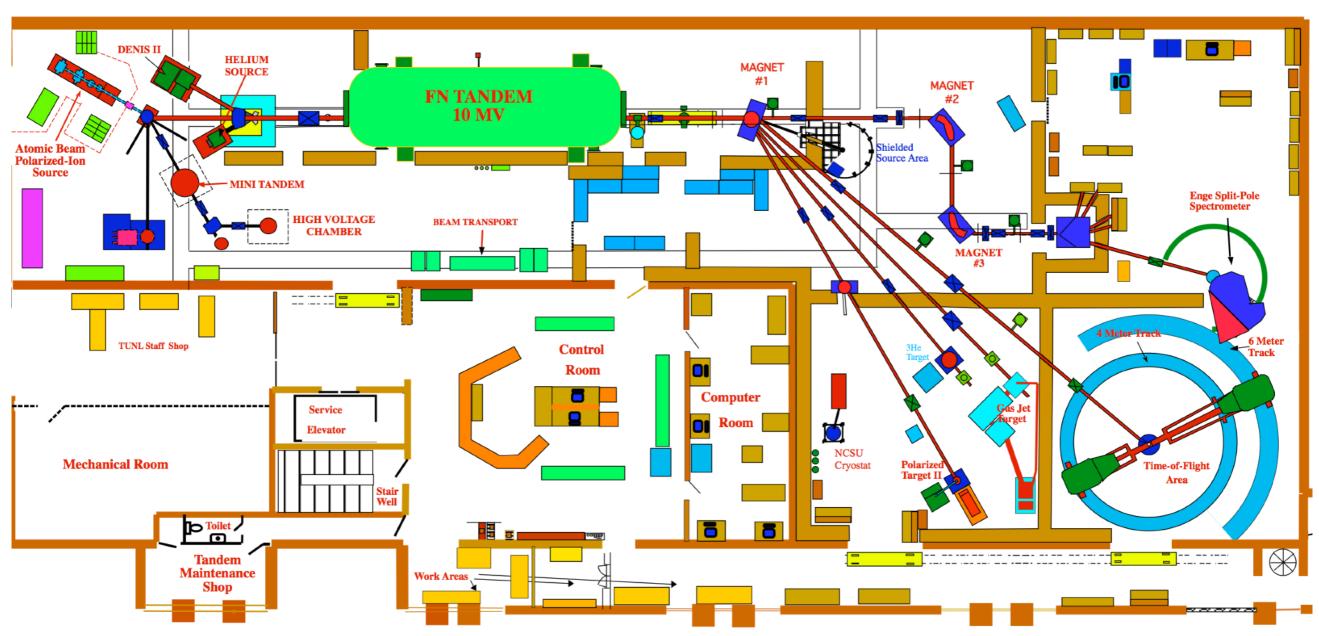
defined



$$\Delta E = 2E_{\rm n} \frac{M_{\rm n}^2}{\left(M_{\rm n} + M_{\rm T}\right)^2} \left(\frac{M_{\rm T}}{M_{\rm n}} + \sin^2\theta - (\cos\theta) \sqrt{\left(\frac{M_{\rm T}}{M_{\rm n}}\right)^2 - \sin^2\theta}\right)$$



Tandem accelerator lab at TUNL

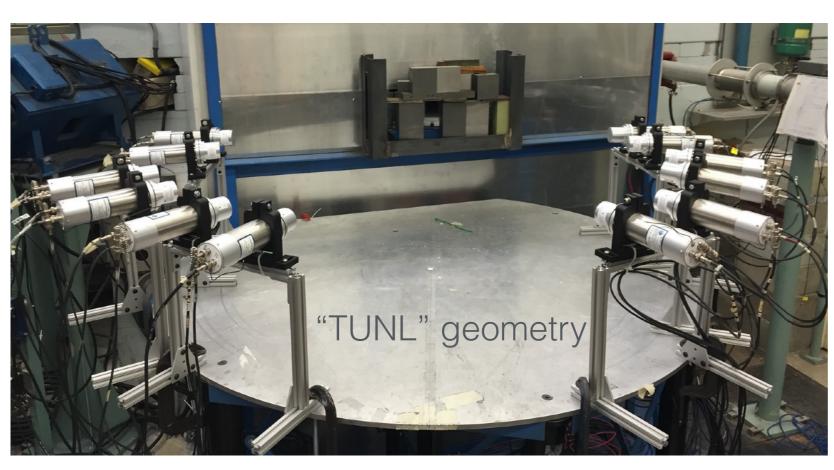


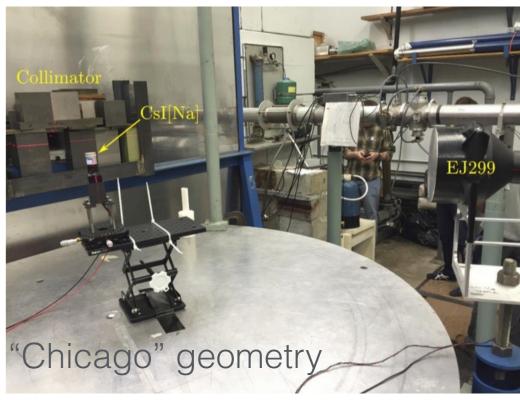
- 3 ion sources
- Beam can be bunched and chopped

- 10-MV maximum terminal voltage
- Numerous beam lines and experimental areas



Quenching factor measurements at TUNL

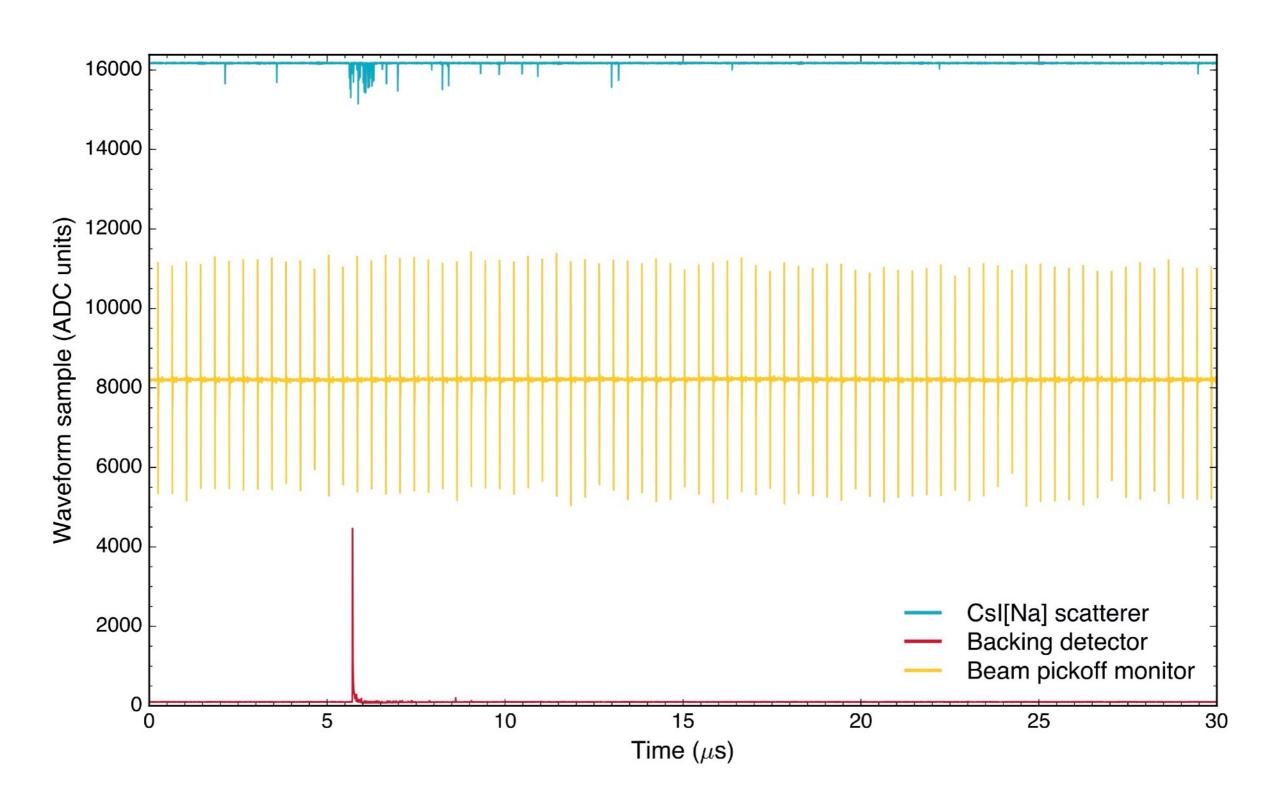




- Neutron beam produced by pulsed deuteron beam incident on deuterium gas cell
- Scattered neutrons detected by "backing detectors"
- Angle of backing detector selects well-defined nuclear recoil energy

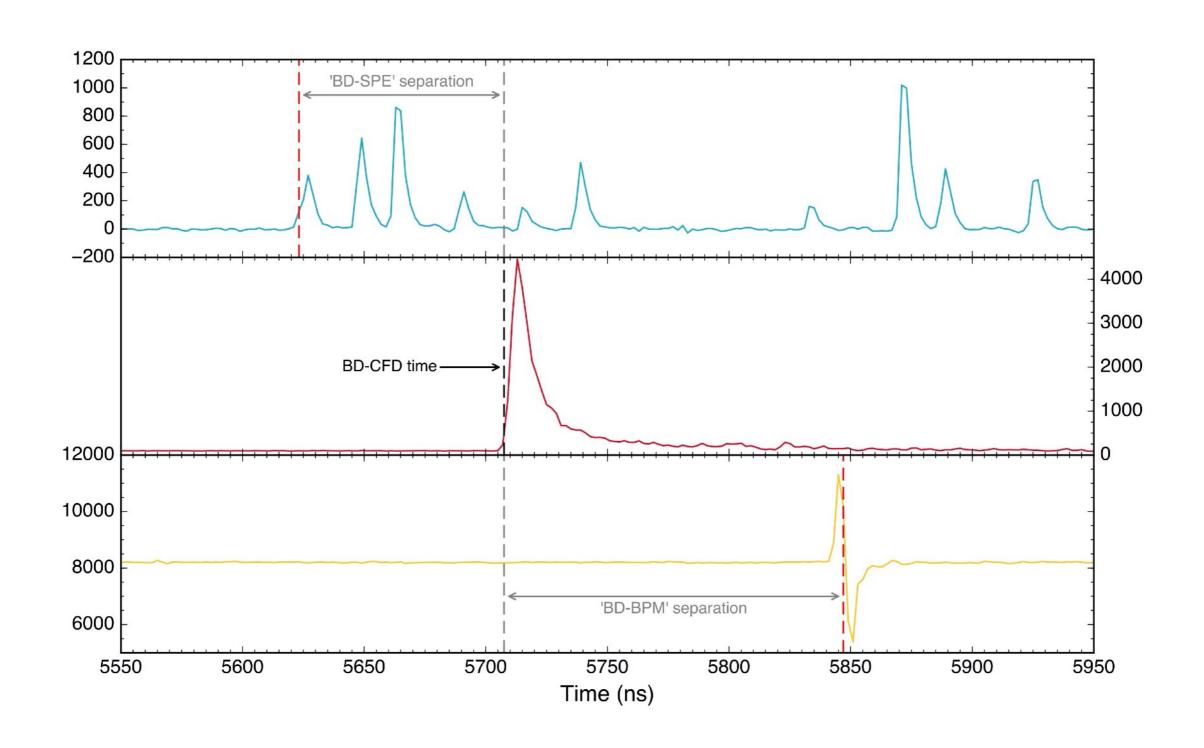


Anatomy of an event



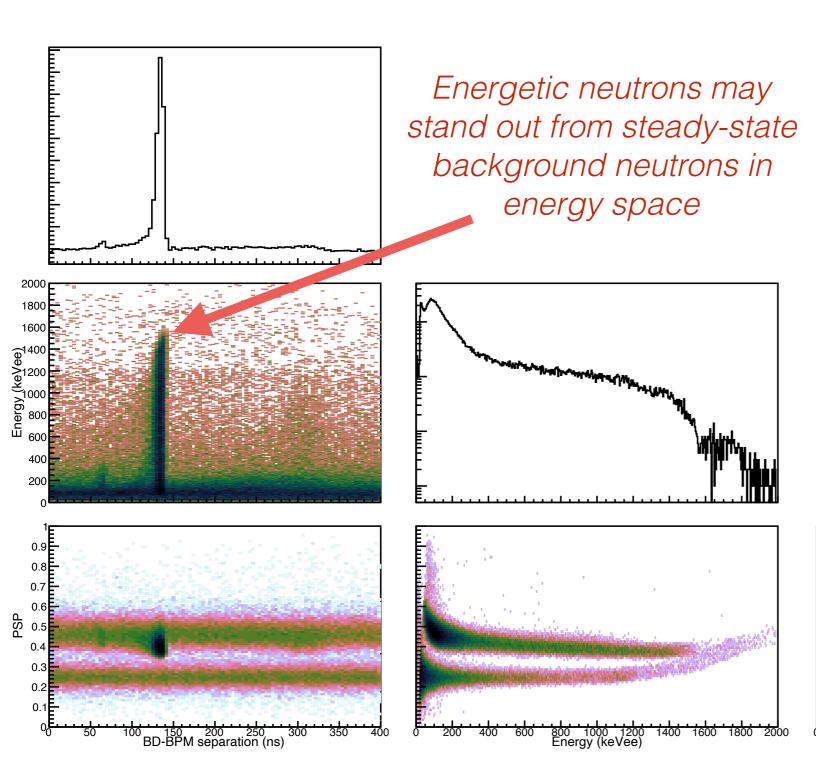


Anatomy of an event



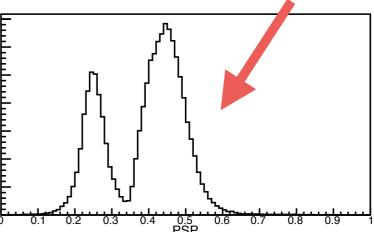


Isolation of beam-related neutron events



- By analyzing signals from the backing detectors alone, along with timing information, we can significantly reduce background
- Efficacy of cuts and availability of information will depend on experimental configuration

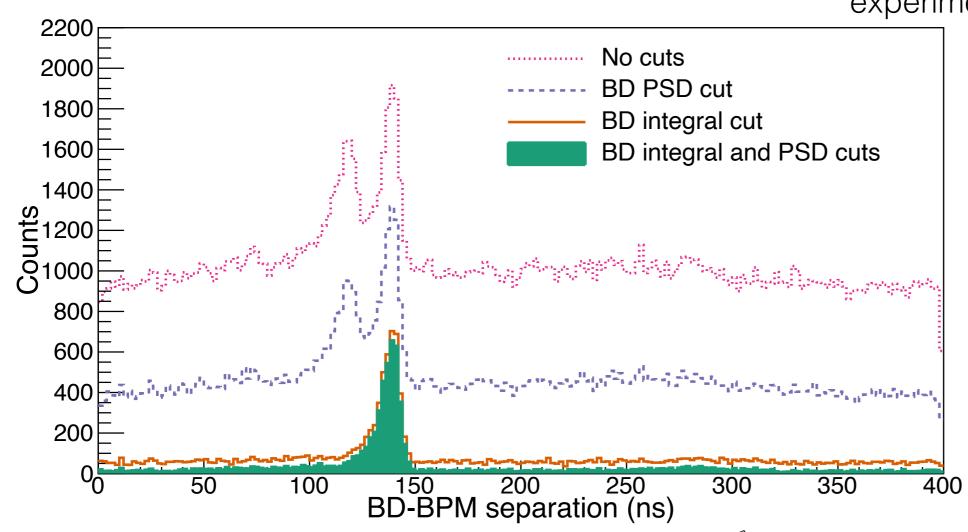
Low-energy neutrons may not yield useful pulse-shape information in BDs



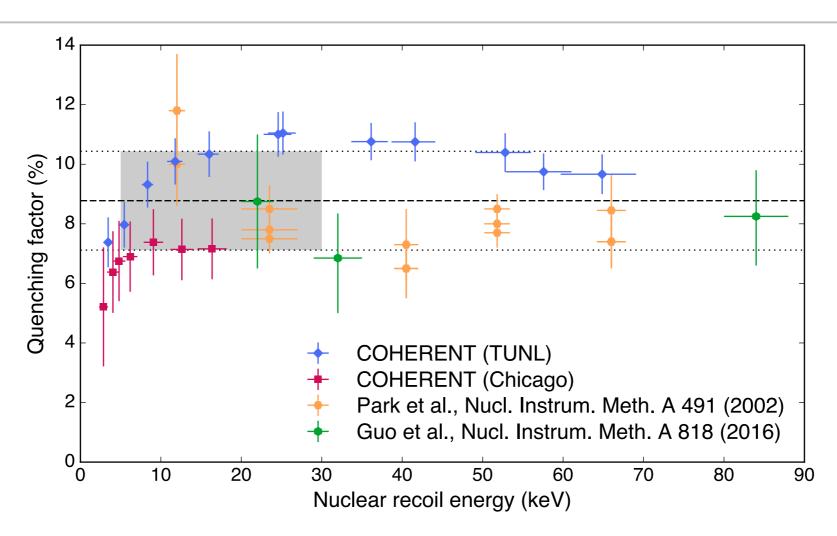


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Results of COHERENT CsI[Na] QF measurements

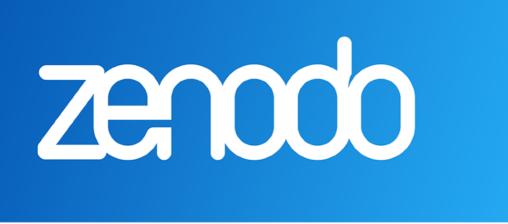


- Determine QF from global values in range from 5 to 30 keVnr
 - 8.78 +/- 1.66%

- Both COHERENT measurements show downward trend at lower recoil energies
- Disagreement between COHERENT measurements under (re)analysis



COHERENT CEVNS observation data release

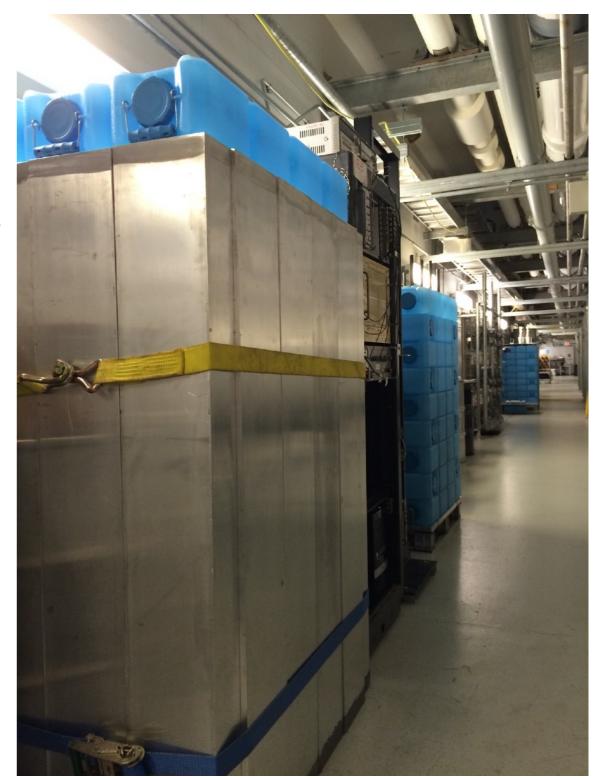


- Data that constituted CE_VNS observation has been packaged and is publicly available
 - http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1228631
 - https://coherent.ornl.gov/data
- Should include all information necessary to perform further analyses on CsI[Na] data
 - Binned data for coincidence and anticoincidence regions for both SNS on and off; prompt-neutron model
 - Descriptions and values for relevant systematics
- Collaboration intends to continue practice of data releases
- Want to promote even more sharing, not simply from COHERENT
 - Value in transparency and portability / reusability



Only the beginning...

- CE_VNS predicted in 1974 but unobserved until 2017
 - Observed at 6.7- σ level using 14.6-kg CsI[Na] scintillator deployed at pulsed, stopped-pion ν source (SNS)
- COHERENT continues to search for CE_vNS with numerous detectors (LAr, NaI[TI], Ge PPCs) in addition to several other efforts
 - Working towards performing precision CEvNS measurements
- Many other groups seeking observation with many different kinds of detectors, different neutrino sources
 - Examples: CONNIE, CONUS, MINER, Nu-CLEUS, nuGEN, RICOCHET, RED-100
 - These efforts are *complementary!* Joint analyses using different detectors and/or sources are very powerful
- Tremendous amount of physics left to be done with CEvNS
 - Robust and collaborative community forming around the process, ample opportunity for involvement!























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